(iv) Prophylaxis Schemes against nutritional Anaemia among mothers and children and Prophylaxis against blindness among children due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency.

Malaria Cases in Delhi

2033. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cerebral malaria is spreading in the Capital;

(b) if so, the number of cases of malaria reported in 1991 and the deaths due to it;

(c) the genesis of this type of malaria;

(d) the steps taken to counter the disease; and

(e) the medicines suggested generally for use by the persons afflicted by this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) As per the reports received from Union Territory of Delhi, 8491 malaria cases including 24 cases of P. falciparum have been reported during 1991. Only one death has been reported due to malaria from a private hospital.

(c) Cerebral malaria is the most common complication of P. falciparum infection and is characterised by high density of parasite in the blood. It generally affects the lower age group population and pregnant females due to lack/depressed body resistance to the infections. The development of cerebral malaria or complications of P. falciparum is generally due to (i) misdiagnosis, (ii) delayed treatment, and (iii) inadequate treatment in terms of drug resistance, dosage and supportive care.

(d) The specific steps to control and contain malaria including P. falciparum include:

(1) Detection and treatment of malaria cases at dispensaries, malaria clinics and hospitals.

(2) Weekly application of chemicals such as malaria larvicide oil (MLO) in mosquito breeding places to destroy mosquito larvae.

(3) Bio-environmental methods such as elimination of mosquito breeding places, introduction larvivorous fish, wherever feasible.

(4) Health education to create public awareness for active participation in anti-malarial measures.

(e) Chloroquine is the drug of choice for treatment of all malaria cases but when patients develops cerebral malaria, the drug of choice is quinine.

Licences for manufacture of Vaccine

2034. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to curtail powers of State Government to issue licences for manufacturing vaccines and certain products;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) In order to regulate issue of licences for manufacture of certain sensitive items like vaccines, blood and blood products and I.V. fluids, the Central Government propose to acquire enabling powers by suitable amendments to Drug and Cosmetic Rules, 1945. This proposal was included in one of the agenda items for the Conference of Health Minister's on 6th and 7th Jan., 1992 but no State Govt. expressed any reservation on the issue.

Legislation on Tobacco Consumption

2035. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring forward a comprehensive legislation on tabacco-consumption in all forms;

(b) whether statutory warning on the lines of cigarette is proposed to be printed on brand names of bidis bundles, zarda, gutka and pan masala. If so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that last year's conference of State Health Ministers agreed upon to high light the risk of cancer involved in chewing of tobacco and tobacco related products, through official media advertisements in their respective States; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of persons died annually on this account in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) No-conference of State Health Ministers was held in 1991. However, in the National Conference on Tobacco or Health held in New Delhi in July, 1991 the risks of Cancer involved in chewing of tobacco and tobacco related products were high-lighted.

(d) The exact number of deaths occuring due to diseases casued by tobacco in the country is not known. However, it has been estimated that in India one million persons die every year due to tobacco related diseases viz. cancers of upper elimentary and respiratory tract; cardiovascular diseases and chronic obstructive lung diseases.

Testing of Blood Samples

2036. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of blood samples tested at the N.D.M.C. hospital of Moti Bagh, New Delhi, have shown to be H.I.V. positive; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Out of 180 blood samples screened at N.D.M.C Hospital, Moti Bagh, only 9 were found to be HIV positive. These 9 positive HIV cases were Thallassemic cases who received blood transfusion from multiple donors from commercial as well as some Government Blood Banks.

(b) The blood which is now being supplied for transfusion is regularly tested for HIV. The 9 HIV positive (Thallassemic patients) are being provided health education and information for coping with their problems.

Use of Neem for Family Planning

2037. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Report of the U.S. National Research Council according to which American research scientists have discovered that all the therapeutic virtues attributed by the Indian folklore to the Neem tree are true and that it may have more uses in areas like birth control;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to exploit the virtues of the Neem and its components chemically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Research on the use of Neem Oil as contraceptive is already in progress and two products for Birth Control have been developed. Toxicology Studies are also in progress which will be followed by Safety and efficacy Studies.